

Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, January 25, 1798, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ROBERT HAYS.

Philadelphia, January 25, 1798

Dear Colo. This is a letter in part of enquiry, I have wrote you many letters since I left home, and am as yet without an answer, and as you will not write I hope you will answer this civil question, and when you are answering this, be so good as to tell me how it Happens, that none of my friends write me.

I have not recd. one single letter from any of my friends (capt Cafferry excepted) since I left home. I have no news from our commissioners at Paris, that can be relied on, the only account certain is that they were Politely recd. by the minister of foreign affairs, and furnished with cards of hospitality but whether acknowledged by the directory is not known, differrent accounts say not, but these are verry contradictory, and flow from sources I believe that wish it so to be.¹

¹ The country remained in daily expectation throughout the months of January and February of information from the commissioners to treat with France. It did not arrive until Mar. 4, 1798. It related, when published a month later, the insolent attempt of Talleyrand to force the commissioners to pay money to obtain a hearing from the French government.

France having Peace within are preparing to make a descent upon Ireland and England should this take place it will be a happy circumstance for america, and I have no doubt

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but what it is intended and will take place unless a sudden Peace should be made with England. Should that Happen, Perhaps France may give america a sweap with her tail.

I enclose you a paper which contains part of a verry important debate, that has taken Place in the representative branch, I have and will sent on papers to Gentlemen in Nashville where you can see the debate at length. I have made no arrangements in the mercantile business waiting to hear from you, and whether it will be in my power to go into that line I cannot say untill Genl Winchester comes forward.

I would be happy to hear, whether and how the landed dispute between Sandy and the heirs of Bledsoe, has been determined whether in favour of Donelson or otherwise.

A Treaty with the Cherokees is ordered, and I believe the object will be to purchase from them all the land the[y] will sell. The treaty will be held in the Spring say the month of april therefore lands on Duck river, should the Tennessee become the line will be valluable. This is as much as to say to you keep all you have and get what you can.

Make my respects to your Lady and believe me to be with Esteem yr mo. ob. serv.